

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

LINDEN CHURCH, LINDEN, ALABAMA,

September 24th, 25th and 26th, 1893.

OFFICERS.

I. W. MARTIN, Moderator.....	Linden, Ala.
JOE LAMBERT, Clerk.....	Catharine, "
P. B. GLASS, Treasurer.....	Linden, "

The next session of this Association will be held with Beaver Creek Church, Luther's Store, Marengo County, Alabama, on Thursday before the third Sunday in September, 1894.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
THE ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY.
1893.



MINUTES.

The seventy-third annual session of Bethel Baptist Association convened with Linden church, at Linden, at 10 o'clock a. m., on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1893. The former Moderator, S. G. Woolf, called the Association into order.

On motion, Rev. I. W. Martin was made temporary Moderator, and P. B. Glass, temporary Clerk.

Dr. S. W. Averett conducted devotional exercises. Read 145th Psalm. Prayer by Rev. G. W. Webb.

On motion the church letters were read, and the following were enrolled as messengers:

Aimwell—W. H. Mayton, J. T. Mayton.

Beaver Creek—G. M. Little, C. W. Blount.

Bethel—G. W. Buck, J. B. Perkins, W. B. Jackson, B. F. Steele, Rev. C. Johnson.

Bethlehem—W. K. Thomas.

Canaan—F. M. Dunaway.

Concord—Rev. J. M. Roden, J. T. Caine.

Catherine—Rev. G. W. Webb, Joe Lambert.

Flatwood Chapel—P. J. Williamson, John Sheffield.

Goose Creek—S. H. Sealy, H. J. Morriss, J. W. Cabaniss.

Friendship—Not represented.

Judson—“ “ “

Hills—Charles Miller.

Providence—Geo. Walston, Nathan Williams, A. R. Christian.

Rehoboth—Not represented.

Linden—Rev. I. W. Martin, W. H. Grant, P. B. Glass.

Myrtlewood—Letter.

Nanafalia—W. W. Davis, A. G. Westbrook.

Pisgah—W. B. Shamberger, Monroe Sheffield

Shiloh—S. P. Jackson, S. W. Compton.

Union Grove—Not represented.

Permanent organization was then perfected by electing Rev. I. W. Martin Moderator, and Joe Lambert, Clerk.

Dr. S. W. Averett, the President of the Judson Female Institute, and Col. J. T. Murfee, of the Cahaba Association, were welcomed as corresponding messengers.

On motion, P. B. Glass was elected Treasurer.

The order of business of last association was adopted, to-wit:

1. Appointment of committees to report during the session. On Finance, Nominations, Documents, Requests, and on Religious Services.
2. Report on religious state of churches.
3. Report on aged and infirm ministers.
4. Report on religious periodicals.
5. Report on Bible and colportage work.
6. Report on state missions.
7. Report on home missions.
8. Report on foreign missions.
9. Report on temperance.
10. Report on ministerial and general education.
11. Report on Sabbath-schools.
12. Report of finance committee.
13. Report of executive committee.

14. Report of committee on nominations, documents and requests.
15. Report of treasurer.
16. Appointment of standing committees.
17. Appointment of executive committee.
18. Reading minutes.
19. Adjournment.

Meet at 9:30, adjourn at 12:30; meet at 2:30, adjourn at 5:00. Fifteen minutes at opening of each session for miscellaneous business.

The Moderator announced the following committees to report during the session:

On Preaching—Deacons of Linden church.

On Finance—G. W. Buck, J. B. Perkins, P. B. Glass.

On Documents and Requests—W. B. Jackson, W. K. Thomas, G. W. Webb.

Report on the Religious State of the Churches was read by S. P. Jackson, and, after discussion by J. T. Caine, W. B. Jackson and G. W. Webb, was adopted.

RELIGIOUS STATE OF CHURCHES.

We are glad to report quite an improvement in the churches within the bounds of this association. The Gospel has been preached faithfully. Many have been added to the churches, and the additions give evidence of Christian usefulness.

REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

Your committee beg leave to report that there are no aged nor infirm ministers in this Association.

Report on Religious Periodicals was read by W. B. Shamberger, and after discussion by S. P. Jackson, W. B. Jackson, J. T. Caine, F. M. Dunaway, J. M. Roden, C. Johnson and I. W. Martin, was adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We deem it one of the most important subjects before this body, and deserve your prayerful and careful attention. It is one of the best means to elevate our people, and to teach them their duty. We feel that this subject has been neglected, and has not received its share of our attention. A long report could be written on this subject, but that is not what is needed now. We need now to reach the people, and we believe the best way to do this is to place in every Baptist family the Alabama Baptist, tracts, Sunday-School literature, more Bibles, and such literature as will tend to teach them their duty; and we believe a man is needed in the field to do this work. There is so much to be done, and so little has been done, that we fear if the Lord should come, that He would not say, "Thou hast been faithful over a few things, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." May we be earnest and faithful in our Lord's work.

W. B. SHAMBERGER, Chairman.

The regular order of business was suspended, and the report on Temperance read by J. T. Caine, and after discussion by J. T. Caine, C. Johnson and J. B. Perkins, was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Oh, why will men put into their mouths that which steals away their brains? Drunkenness is a minor madness—is the first sentence that meets the eye and puzzles the brain of the novice in Anthon's Greek Reader. And every man and every woman of any experience in this world—many good and evil inventions can heartily endorse the aphorism, though the minor

should be changed to major, or even maximus; for this week we read in the public prints, "Crazed by liquor, a brute murders his wife and daughter and commits suicide." Next week we read from the same paper, "Drink has done it all." And by way of explanation, the editor only remarks—which was the terse note of a young man of thirty-five years of age in New York, who had just committed suicide. So terrible and harrowing are these sad and doleful tragedies that even a religious editor thinks that comment is unnecessary. And so it would seem, for they are not only of weekly but of daily occurrence, and their very recital is a dolesome and horrible commentary upon this prolific mouth of the loudest crying sin of our country. Indeed, when we would speak of the evils of intemperance, we scarcely know where to begin, nor when nor where to stop.

From the day that a preacher of righteousness and the progenitor of a depopulated world drank an excess of wine, and rendered himself ridiculous in the eyes of his irreverent and ungodly son, down to the present time, the sad consequences of inebriety seem to have been entailed not only upon the posterity of Ham, but also upon Noah's entire progeny, for from that time to this wine has been a " mocker and strong drink raging," and millions of the human family have been unwise enough to be overtaken and utterly ruined thereby.

Oh, then, let us all heed the warning of Solomon, "Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright, for at last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

But the time for discussing the moral and soul-destroying evils of intemperance has passed—these are too patent and obvious. They are ever before our eyes like hydra-headed, legionary demons, stalking up and down the earth seeking whom they may devour, with a long train of weeping and wailing orphans and widows at their heels whose cries and lamentations they heed not.

The question now is, How shall the ravages of the monster, intemperance, be prevented? The answer is, legal prohibition—local option law. Let every community, township, county or State, according as is found practicable by the friends of the cause of temperance, petition their State legislature to prohibit, by law, the indiscriminate sale of all intoxicants. So shall the cornucopia of peace and plenty be poured out upon our land and country.

J. T. CAINE, Chairman.

The report on Ministerial and General Education was read by C. W. Blount, and after discussion by Dr. S. W. Averett and Col. J. T. Murfee, was adopted.

MINISTERIAL AND GENERAL EDUCATION.

The work of the Baptist denomination in Alabama is represented by the following statement taken from the minutes of the last State Convention: There were at Howard College, 25 ministerial students; at the Seminary, 8; at High Schools, 3; in all 36 students. This report being made last November does not give the Board credit for all it did, for other students doubtless were received under its patronage between November and June. The Board has given information of a more recent date that its expenditures have exceeded its receipts by nine hundred dollars. Its claims upon us, then, for immediate relief are urgent, in view of the opening of the session of the Howard on the 12th instant, and the approaching opening of the session of the Seminary. We would recommend that this Association take proper measures to secure this relief during the present sitting of the body.

There were in attendance at Howard College, at East Lake, during the last session, 159 students, and at the Judson Institute, 131 students. These figures afford a high degree of satisfaction, the financial difficulties of this period being considered. Our denomination has acquired great prominence in the educational system of Alabama, ministerial and general; it becomes us in view of that prominence to sustain our colleges for young men and for young women liberally.

Respectfully submitted,

C. W. BLOUNT, Chairman.

SATURDAY—MORNING SESSION.

Minutes read and adopted.

Rev. G. W. Webb offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

"Resolved, 1st, That this Association will not hold in fellowship any church who tolerates drunkenness in its members.

"Resolved, 2nd, Be it the sense of this Association, that each and every church be requested to enforce strict discipline against the use of all intoxicating drinks, and the signing of petitions to sell the same, or otherwise encouraging the use or sale of ardent spirits.

"Resolved, 3rd, That we agree to use our best efforts to enforce the prohibition law wherever it may exist."

Prof. B. F. Giles, of Howard College, and Rev. W. B. Crumpton, Corresponding Secretary of the State Board of Missions, were welcomed as messengers.

The report on Ministerial Education was adopted, and the churches pledged to contribute to the support of the same. (See table of apportionment.)

The report on Bible and Colportage was read by F. M. Dunaway, and after discussion by W. B. Crumpton, J. M. Roden and G. W. Webb, was adopted.

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

This all important work has been neglected by our Association, especially for the past year. We think it now deserves the earnest, prayerful effort on our part to have this work put properly before our people; and we recommend that a suitable man be employed to do this work, and that the Executive Committee of this Association be authorized to co-operate with the State Board of Missions in employing a man to do the work.

F. M. DUNAWAY, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed the following named persons for Executive Committee: J. T. Caine, F. M. Dunaway, Joe Lambert.

Report on State Missions was read by P. B. Glass.

The report on Home Missions was read by G. W. Webb.

Report on Foreign Missions was read by W. K. Thomas, and after discussion by W. B. Crumpton, B. F. Giles, J. M. Roden, W. B. Jackson, J. T. Caine and J. B. Perkins, were adopted.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The cause of missions, whether it be Foreign, State or Home missions, should have the hearty support of Baptists.

It should be the purpose of all the teachers of the people to cultivate a missionary spirit. Lock up all the missions, and it will be seen that where one branch of the mission work is supported and contributed to, by the people, all will be. The purpose of State missions is to supply the destitute churches in our midst, and a spirit of home pride should move all Baptists to a liberal support of their home affairs.

The State Board has earnestly worked to strengthen the work. The corresponding secretary of this board is, and has been, tireless in his service to this cause of his Master. All the boards, and all the secretaries and all the preachers are powerless unless the people give and give liberally to the support of the Mission cause.

The destitute can not be supplied in the state in our midst unless the churches more fortunate give.

Respectfully submitted,

P. B. GLASS, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee on Home Missions, beg leave to submit the following: We have carefully surveyed the field of the Home Board, and find great reason for rejoicing at the work that has been done.

Many of our towns and cities have been greatly built up and Christianized under the workings of this board, and the Isle of Cuba has been made to awaken under the power of the blessed gospel of our God. Also, I would mention the work done by the Purser Brothers in New Orleans, together with many towns and cities, that have heard of Christ the Lord through the work of the Home Board. And as to its financial condition, we clip the following from the Alabama Baptist, of August 7th, 1893: "The present financial condition and outlook of the Home Mission Board is, in one view, decidedly encouraging and hopeful." This time last year, we owed in bank, \$15,000, and had facing us a balance of \$22,000, on the Havana house, due first of December, and for which provisions must be made. To day, we do not owe a cent, have no debt in Cuba, and have paid our Missionaries to the first of August, and our receipts for the month of July, despite hard times and some special difficulties, have been \$7,023.21, against \$2,130.14, for the same period last year. This is decidedly encouraging, so let us thank God and go forward. But, alas! when we turn our eyes and behold the broad plains of desolated country that lie out before us as the home of the poor, we are made to blush by listening to the message that Jesus Christ sent unto John the Baptist, saying: "The poor have the gospel preached unto them." Brethren, what has been done ought to have been done, but we should no longer leave the other undone. Therefore, let us implore the assistance of the Home Board, as the State Board has already turned their eyes in this direction, and combine the same with all of our associations, and carry the gospel to all the toiling sons of Adam's race, with special care for the poor.

Your committee would respectfully request that this association indorse the proposed corporation, and inaugurate a plan whereby we can at once place a colporteur evangelist in the fields to carry out the proposed suggestions. For indeed, we think our field is white unto the harvest, judging by the reports from the churches. So, brethren, let us stand by our boards, and heed the suggestions as they come to us, all along the line, and lay to a helping hand, and we will be surely conquerors. Respectfully submitted,

G. W. WEBB, Ch'n.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee would respectfully report that, notwithstanding the financial pressure, our Foreign Mission Board has been well sustained as to contributions.

The Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board has this to say in regard to the work done the past conventional year: The centenary of modern missions closed with joy in the heart of the Board. In no preceding twelve months has the world's evangelization so engaged the minds and means of God's servants. In comparing the last year's work with the preceding one, we find an increase in contributions of \$40,359.

Alabama gave \$11,506, an increase over the year previous of \$1,635. But, brethren, very much remains to be done; our prayer should be for more laborers in the field, for truly the harvest is great and the laborers are few.

We have now in Foreign fields—Missionaries, 74; Native helpers, 78; Organized churches, 75; Membership, 2923; Baptisms last year, 333. Total contribution, for last conventional year, \$154,626. Respectfully submitted,

W. K. THOMAS, Chairman.

Whereas, We are informed that the Foreign Mission Board will probably appoint Miss Willie Kelly, of McKinley, Ala., as a Missionary to China, therefore be it

Resolved, That we pledge our sympathies and prayers to this sister and the board appointing her, and we recommend that the churches and Sunday-schools contribute liberally to her support.

W. K. THOMAS.

The committee on preaching reported that Rev. W. B. Crumpton preach in the Baptist church, and Rev. J. M. Roden, in the Methodist church on Sunday, at 11 a. m.

Rev. W. B. Crumpton and J. T. Caine discussed woman's work in connection with missions.

The report on Nominations, Documents and Requests was read and adopted.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS, DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

We, your committee, recommend that Eld. I. W. Martin preach the introductory sermon, Alternate, Eld. J. Lee Tucker. That Eld. J. M. Roden preach the annual missionary sermon.

We recommend that the next association be held with Beaver Creek, Luther's store, Marengo County, commencing at 10 a. m., on Friday before the third Sunday in September 1894. Elder J. T. Caine as a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, Alternates Rev. C. Johnson W. K. Thomas, and that volunteers be called for, to represent us in the Baptist State Convention.

W. B. JACKSON, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed the following standing committees:

Religious State of Churches—Rev. C. Johnson, C. H. Miller and C. W. Blount.

Aged and Infirm Ministers—J. W. Cabaniss, S. W. Compton and Wm. Doyle.

Religious Literature—Rev. W. V. Vice, J. T. Rush and G. W. Buck.

Bible and Colportage—Rev. G. W. Webb, G. W. Little and W. B. Shamberger.

State Missions—Rev. J. M. Roden, R. B. Caine and S. P. Tucker.

Home Missions—Rev. J. L. Tucker, D. J. Meador and S. H. Sealy.

Foreign Missions—F. M. Dunaway, Rev. J. T. Caine and Joe Lambert.

Temperance—J. B. Perkins, S. P. Jackson and S. B. Jackson.

Ministerial and Denominational Education—W. K. Thomas, P. B. Glass and Robert Mayton.

Sabbath-Schools—W. B. Jackson, W. H. Grant and S. G. Woolf.

On motion by S. H. Sealy, a cash collection and pledges, amounting to \$14.00, was taken up to pay for books and corresponding course of sermon building by Rev. G. S. Anderson for Rev. J. W. Cabaniss, and Rev. G. W. Webb was appointed as treasurer for same.

The Committee on Apportionment made their report, which was adopted. Requested that apportionment for education be paid by Feb. 1, 1894.

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT.

	For Missions.	For Education.
Aimwell	\$ 15 00	\$ 2 00
Bethel	80 00	10 00
Bethlehem	15 00	5 00
Beaver Creek.....	15 00	2 50
Carana.....	15 00	5 00
Catharine.....	15 00	3 00
Concord	50 00	12 00
Flatwood Chapel.....	5 00	2 00
Goose Creek.....	10 00	5 00
Hills	20 00	5 00
Indian Springs	20 00	5 00
Judson	5 00	2 00
Linden.....	25 00	10 00
Myrtlewood	20 00	5 00
Nanafalia	35 00	5 00
Pisgah	15 00	2 50
Providence	4 00	1 00
Shiloh	20 00	5 00
Spring Hill.....	8 00	2 00
Union Grove.....	10 00	2 00
Friendship.....	50 00	5 00
Rehoboth.....	8 00	2 00
Grand total.....	\$ 460 00	\$ 98 00

SUNDAY—MORNING.

Rev. C. Johnson conducted devotional exercises Read 15th Chapter of John—prayer by W. B. Jackson.

The following were appointed delegates to the State Convention: Elders J. T. Caine, J. M. Roden, C. Johnson, G. W. Webb, I. W. Martin, J. W. Cabaniss, J. B. Perkins, W. B. Jackson, W. K. Thomas, F. M. Dunaway, W. B. Shamberger and Joe Lambert.

The report on Sunday-Schools was read by S. W. Compton, and after discussion by J. T. Caine and S. P. Jackson, the report was adopted.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We deem it unnecessary to speak of the importance of the Sunday-School work. All recognize its usefulness and beneficial influence. We would urge upon all the churches of this Association the importance of engaging in this noble work with that zeal and energy that will make it a success. Be careful not to make the Sabbath-School a separate institution from the church, but of the church. Now, since it is the object of the Sabbath-School to teach the Scriptures, and since it is the special duty of the church of Christ to perform this all important work, the Sabbath-School properly organized is a church at work, the church doing her legitimate work, viz: Searching the scriptures and teaching the way of life and salvation. From the best information that we can obtain, the Sabbath-school interest keeps step with the other interests of the church, which, judging from the records of the last few years, is gradually declining.

Can we not, as witnesses for Christ, endeavor by the grace of God to awaken to a sense of duty as Christians to enlist ourselves more fully in the Sabbath School work, that we may be taught concerning spiritual things?

Respectfully submitted,

S. W. COMPTON, Chairman.

On motion, the Secretary of the State Board of Missions was requested to pay Rev. G. W. Webb seven dollars (\$7.00), balance due him on colportage.

The thanks of the Association were returned to Brother John E. Hecker for services as clerk of the Association for the past seven years.

On motion, the thanks of the Association were tendered the Linden Baptist church and community for the kind hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

The Finance Committee made their report, which was adopted.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We beg leave to report the following amounts in cash:

For Minutes.....	\$ 22 60
“ Ministerial Education.....	12 35
“ Bible and Colportage.....	2 65
“ Foreign Missions.....	21 75
“ Home Missions	8 05
“ State Missions.....	22 39
 Total.....	\$ 89 79
Vouchers.....	\$230 27

G. W. BUCK, Chairman.

The Treasurer's report was read and adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

OCTAGON, August 21, 1892.

W. F. SETZLER, In account with Bethel Baptist Association:

Dr.	
Total amount received.....	\$ 96 97
Cr.	
By amount paid G. W. Webb, on account Bible and Colportage work	24 20
Amount paid G. W. Webb, State Missions.....	20 50
“ “ W. B. Crumpton, State Missions.....	22 00
“ “ “ Home Missions.....	8 00
“ “ “ Foreign Missions.....	17 25
“ “ “ Ministerial Education.....	8 10
“ “ J. E Hecker for Minutes.....	18 70
 Total amount paid out.....	\$ 96 97

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. SETZLER, Treasurer.

On motion, the Clerk of the Association was allowed ten dollars (\$10) for his services.

Rev. W. B. Crumpton preached the Missionary sermon. A collection was taken up, amounting to seven dollars and seventy-seven cents (\$7.77).

The Association then adjourned to meet with Beaver Creek Church, Luther's Store, Marengo county, on Thursday before the third Sunday in September, 1894, at 10 o'clock a. m.

I. W. MARTIN, MODERATOR

JOE LAMBERT, Clerk.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Names and Addresses of Chairmen Standing Committees.

Religious State of Churches—Rev. C. Johnson, McKinley, Ala.
 Aged and Infirm Ministers—J. W. Cabaniss, Nanafalia, Ala.
 Religious Literature—Rev. W. V. Vice, Vineland, Ala.
 Bible and Colportage—Rev. G. W. Webb, Catharine, Ala.
 State Missions—Rev. J. M. Roden, Safford, Ala.
 Home Missions—D. J. Meador, Demopolis, Ala.
 Foreign Missions—F. M. Dunaway, Lamison, Ala.
 Temperance—J. B. Perkins, McKinley, Ala.
 Ministerial and Denominational Education—W. K. Thomas, Octagon, Ala.
 Sabbath-Schools—W. B. Jackson, McKinley, Ala.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. H. BLAKLEY.....	Aimwell,	Ala.
G. W. BUCK.....	Thomaston,	"
JOS. SMILEY.....	Vineland,	"
JOE LAMBERT.....	Catharine,	"
J. B. PERKINS.....	McKinley,	"
W. K. THOMAS.....	Octagon,	"
C. W. BLOUNT.....	Luther's Store,	"
JOHN FINNEY	Thomaston,	"
W. L. MARTIN.....	Magnolia,	"
P. B. GLASS.....	Linden,	"
J. B. WILLIAMS.....	Nanafalia,	"
S. P. JACKSON.....	Shiloh,	"
J E W. NORRIS	Moss,	"
JOHN TUCKER.....	Catharine,	"
V. H. CAINE.....	Safford,	"
W. B. SHAMBERGER.....	Bethel,	"
F. M. DUNAWAY.....	Lamison,	"

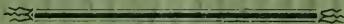
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